

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on March 15, 2005.

Claims 1 and 15 are amended, claims 2, 13 and 14 are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1, 3 -12 and 15 are now pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 13, and 14 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Casper et al. (U.S. 6,188,675 B1).

Claim 1 was amended to include the limitations of claim 2. Claim 2 had previously been objected to as depending from rejected claim 1 but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten as an independent claim including all of the limitations of claim 1. Amended claim 1 is therefore now an allowable claim with all of the limitations of claims 1 and 2. Claims 3, 5 and 7 which depend from claim 1 are allowable for the same reason as amended claim 1.

Claim 15 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 13 and 14 from which it depends. Claim 15 was indicated in the Office Action to be allowable if amended to include the limitations of claim 13 and intervening claim 14. Claims 13 and 14 have now been cancelled.

Reconsideration of claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 is respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 3-5 and 8-9 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Casper et al. (U.S. 6,188,675) in view of Desnoyers et al.(U.S. 6,791,948).

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Casper et al. (U.S. 6,188,675) in view of Haley (U.S. 5,884,036).

In view of the amendments to claim 1 to make it allowable in accordance with the objections stated in the Office Action, dependent 3-5 and 8-9 are allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 3-5 and 8-9 is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2 and 15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 was amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 2.

Claim 15 was amended to incorporate the limitations of independent claim 13 and intervening claim 14.

Claims 10-12 were allowed.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney ((612) 373-6970) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By his Representatives,

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Date

August 15, 2005

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 15th day of August, 2005.

Name

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Signature

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